

SWCD Annual Report Gives Account of Year's Activities

ANNUAL REPORT

This is the report of the Holt Soil & Water Conservation District's activities and accomplishments during the year 1962. The following table gives an outline of the accomplishments for the past year on some of the major conservation practices carried out by District cooperators.

| Practice | Unit | Now On | |
|-----------------------|-------|--------|---------|
| | | 1962 | Hand |
| New cooperators | No. | 35 | 815 |
| Basic Plans | No. | 19 | 459 |
| Cons. Crop Rotations | Ac. | 1,914 | 113,613 |
| Proper Use | Ac. | 14,135 | 204,135 |
| Permanent Seeding | Ac. | 1,566 | 33,467 |
| Tree Planting | | 159 | 8,215 |
| Terraces & Diversions | L-ft. | 19,610 | 406,997 |
| Waterway Development | Ac. | 30 | 358 |
| Pond Construction | No. | 71 | 445 |
| Land Leveling | Ac. | 85 | 402 |

Although there were probably no records broken on any one practice, all practices show a good amount of accomplishment, which indicate a well balanced program for the District.

Eleven different contractors did conservation work in the county during the year. Seven of them were engaged in dam building, four in waterways, diversions, terraces, etc. Contractor and farmer help in layout and checking accounted for considerable saving in time.

There were three irrigation dams constructed during the year, two of them setting new records. One embounded over 10 surface acres of water and contained over 16,000 cu. yds. Another embounded over 75 acre feet of water. In all cases it will enable a rather small family sized operation to expand and increase their productivity through irrigation coupled with their livestock operations.

The interest in the Great Plains Program is still high with a number of requests on hand for new contracts. Eight contracts were terminated by expiration. All of these producers have been well satisfied with the fulfillment of their complete conservation plans.

COOPERATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

The District Board of Supervisors appreciates the effort expended by the technical staff of the Soil Conservation Service in assisting in our work. It is through their efforts and cooperation and the fine work of our cooperators that conservation continues to expand in Holt County.

The need for additional technical assistance remains critical. The over all application of lay out type practice was as great or greater than last years all time record. Dean Hallock, the conservation aid, was responsible for the lay out using what WAE time was available; farmer and contractor help and requesting help from the W. U. C. when necessary to keep ahead of construction. The follow up and planning program has lapsed somewhat because of the amount of lay out and conservation practice application. In order to carry out a well balanced program of planning and application additional full time help is essential.

The technical staff includes: Orville Indra, Soil Scientist who serves several districts; C. R. Hill, Unit Conservationist; Weston D. Whitver, Range Conservationist and Dean Hallock, Conservation Aid. Darel Bright, Robert Gallagher and Gene Schneider together working 14 1/2 man days as WAE aids during the year. Mrs. Carole Reed continues to serve as the District clerk. The county increased the funds for clerical help to \$1500 per year.

Robert Gallagher was fatally injured in a tractor accident on his ranch on July 3. His untimely death was indeed a great loss not only to his family but to the District and Soil Conservation Service whom he had served so faithfully.

Holt is a large county and contains much school and University land. A new work load is presenting itself in the demand for basic plans on school lands. During 1963 a total of 173 school land leases comprising 50,148 acres

will be sold. Although some of these places have basic plans at the present time with the present staff it will be impossible to meet this increased demand for plans on these lands. During the past year the staff has written plans on school land only where the lessee has shown the desire for a complete plan comparable to that shown by other farmers and ranchers in the District.

It has been policy to contact the cooperators every 4 years. Most of the cooperators in ranges 13, 14, 15 and 16 have been contacted. As a part of lay out and planning operations additional contacts were made. Now a concentrated effort is being made to contact the remainder of the cooperators in ranges 10 and 11. These contacts bring in a number of new requests for various practices and further increase the work load.

Cooperation with the State Game Commission has continued on a high level. They have checked all ponds for stocking with State or Federal fish with the exception of newly constructed dams which they approve from the information submitted with the application. In most cases the Game Commission insists that the pond be fenced to be eligible for stocking with fish.

The new "G" practices in the ACP docket brought about a number of requests that were served jointly by a member of the Game Commission staff, the area engineer and a local technician from the Soil Conservation staff. Four fish ponds were approved and surveyed, two of them constructed. A total of 12 requests were received, 7 of them being pits to fish ponds. Six of these were approved but none constructed largely because of the high cost to the farmer or rancher where dragline work would be involved.

Dick Gavit, Extension Forester from Pierce, has worked closely with the Soil Conservation Service technicians in connection with the Forestry Improvement Program. Several cooperators did some forestry improvement by removing broadleaf trees where there was good reproduction of cedar in old belts. A number of tests were made with the use of artrazine and simazine. The results were very encouraging for the use of herbicides on trees to prevent the growth of annual weeds.

The 1962 Holt County Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) shared with farmers in the Holt Soil Conservation District the cost of establishing selected conservation practices needed to water and protect their soil, water, and woodland resources. The ACP was administered by the locally elected Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation (ASC) County Committee.

In addition to sharing the cost of conservation practices, the County ACP also helped provide technical services necessary to the success of the practices by transferring \$4300.00 to the Soil Conservation Service.

The County ACP Development Group, composed of the ASC County Committee including the County Agent, and designated representative of the Soil Conservation Service and Forest Service, developed the County ACP. In doing this, the Group consulted with the Governing Body of the Soil Conservation District and got recommendations from the ASC Community Committeemen and other agricultural agencies and groups with agricultural interests.

The program was designed so that — along with conservation education, technical services, and other conservation efforts — it would be most useful in meeting local conservation problems. Most of the practices carried out on farms with ACP cost-sharing were needed land treatment measures in the program of the Holt Soil Conservation District.

During the 1962 program year about \$96,610.51 of ACP cost-sharing was used on 396 farms in the Holt Soil Conservation District to help solve particular problems by establishing needed conservation practices. This represented about 16% of the farms included:

| Conservation Practice | Farms | Extent |
|--|-------|------------|
| Permanent cover for soil protection or land-use adjustment | 52 | 1264 acres |

Vegetative cover for crop rotation 200 4690 acres
Lime on farmland to permit use of conserving crops 38 960 acres
Stripcropping for erosion control 1 28 acres
Planting trees or shrubs 60 140.5 acres 92721 trees

Deferred grazing on rangeland to improve vegetative cover 12 3206 acres
Controlling competitive shrubs on range or pasture lands 2 158 acres
Wells for livestock water 64 71 structures
Developing springs or seeps 1 852 cu. ft.
Livestock water dams 22 24 struct.

Improvement of a stand of forest trees 5 11 acres
Establishing permanent sod waterways 17 16,977 lin. ft 3,731 cu. yds. 218 1000 sq. ft.

Permanent vegetation on field borders, dams, dikes and ditchbanks 4 14 acres
Gradient and level terraces 3 10.1 1000 lin. ft.
Erosion control dams 12 15 struct.
Open drains 4 4567 cu. yds.
Leveling irrigable cropland 3 55 acres
Winter Cover crops 2 65 acres
Summer cover crops 2 50 acres
Control of noxious weeds on farmland 4 113 acres
Treating blow-outs on damaged areas of range-land 11 51 acres
Ponds for wildlife 1 2 struct.

Payments on above practices were made by direct payment to the farmer, ACP cost-share payment paid directly to the vendor at the farmers request or by an assignment also at the farmers request. The Holt Soil Conservation District received payments by 20 assignments and 46 direct payments were made to other various vendors. Approximately 450 farms were in the 1962 Feed Grain Program. There are approximately 230 farms on which the Conservation Reserve Program contracts are still in effect.

PUBLICITY

There were 20 news releases made during the year. These are printed in from one to four of the newspapers in the county: The Holt County Independent, The Frontier, the Atkinson Graphic and the Stuart Advocate. Each Thursday Radio Station KBRX in O'Neill carries a 15 minute program covering some phase of conservation. Responsibility for these programs is shared by the County Extension Agent, Weston Whitver and Bob Hill of the Soil Conservation Service. Occasionally a District Supervisor assists with the program. It seems that in the past year we have had better response from this program than previously.

SUPERVISORS ACTIVITIES AWARDS PROGRAM

The election of the Soil & Water Conservation District was held July 20. Three new supervisors were elected; they are Milton McKathnie, Merrill Smith and Robert Summerer. The past supervisors, Walter Fick, Merwyn French, sr., and Robert Witherwax, were asked to serve as assistants and help with the work load and also to help the three new members of this busy board. This has given an opportunity to continue all past practices and also to start several new ones such as tree spraying and replanting.

Four board members and their wives attended the National Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts in February. The trip started by plan from Omaha to New York non-stop. A very busy week was taken up by tours, meetings and banquets. We traveled by boat, bus and taxi to cover nearly every historic and scenic location along the Eastern sea board. Starting at the Statue of Liberty we traveled the length and width of New York City. Then by train to Philadelphia to attend the largest association gathering ever. The final climax was the touring of our nation's capital city and meeting with many of the men and women who run our country.

This trip and convention added vision and understanding to this supervisor, also to the other supervisors from this District, State and nation.

All board members and assistant supervisors attended all or part of the annual convention of the State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts at Valentine. At this meeting Elmer Juracek, secretary-treasurer of our board and State President for the past year was re-elected as president of the State Association.

Mr. Juracek attended the area meeting in Bismark, N. D. representing the State Association as well as our District.

On December 6 Milton McKathnie, Bob Summerer, supervisors, Carole Reed, District Clerk, and Bob Hill, W. U. C. attended the area meeting at Broken Bow.

Walter Fick served during the year as President of the Nebraska section of the American Society of Range Management. Weston Whitver, Range Conservationist served as secretary-treasurer. Walt worked especially hard on newsletter subscribers obtaining nearly 100 for the Nebraska section. He inaugurated the practice of having business interests sponsor the letter. He received such sponsorship from O'Neill Livestock Market, First National Bank, Arrow Seed Co., Miller Seed Co., and Sharp Bros. Seed Co., Healey, Kan.

Walt has become quite popular in presenting his ranch conservation and operation story using a very impressive set of slides he has taken. He gave this at the State meeting at Broken Bow and at the Custer County Soil & Water Conservation District annual meeting at Broken Bow.

On April 4 board members and wives, the office staff and their wives and friends met at the Town House for a dinner to honor Dean Hollock. Dean was presented an Outstanding Award by C. Wallace Buck, Area Conservationist. Dean made outstanding contributions to the Conservation work in the District and richly deserved this award. We, as board members, are very appreciative of this type of technicians being assigned to our District.

Clarence Ernst's ranch was selected for the Photo Award. The Production Credit Association sponsored this award. Clarence has not only done an outstanding job in applying a complete conservation program on his place but has served as Soil & Water Conservation District supervisor for more than 10 years. He is at present chairman of the County Board of Supervisors. Mr. and

Mrs. Ernst attended the State Convention at Valentine as guests of the local District.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dexter, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Jarman and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fick represented the District with their ranch operations in the Sioux City Permanent Agriculture Contest. The District won the Area award and \$100.00 which was used to purchase a set of walkie talkies. These award winning ranches represent some of the most outstanding conservation ranch management in the county.

Merwyn French, Jr., was selected in the Goodyear Awards program. Merwyn, an irrigation farmer near Pae, has some very good grass seeding and tree plantings as a part of his conservation program. His latest planting was six single row shelterbelts on a quarter of non-irrigated cropland.

Merwyn French sr. was again in charge of the Soil Stewardship Program for the county. Laymen were asked to invite their pastor and attend a meeting about a month prior to Soil Stewardship Sunday. The morning included discussions on District Activities followed by a noon luncheon. The afternoon was spent touring conservation practices in the Northern part of Holt County.

Bob Summerer and Bob Witherwax took charge of the conservation students selected for County Government Day.

Several teachers received scholarships to Conservation workshops. They were Mrs. Rinnie Gans and Mrs. Bennett Sanders attending at Wayne and Miss Twila Hicks attending at Jeffery Lodge.

Holt County was chosen as a pilot project for updating the program of work for the District. All board members joined with State and local representatives of the Extension Service, Agriculture and Stabilization and Conservation Service, Farmers Home Administration and local representatives of Federal Land Bank, Production Credit Association, Reclamation District representative and Chamber of Commerce.

This was done because the Secretary of Agriculture desired that these programs of work be made current to better reflect working conditions and relations on which a new memoranda of understanding will be based.

Subsequent meetings of the board, State Commission representative and Soil Conservation Service representative to review material and condense to usable form. At the series of Area meetings held throughout the State in December the work done in Holt County was discussed with all other District boards in the State.

The annual meeting was held with the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce. This served to educate the Chamber members to the work of our District. Also we as District supervisors learned something of city business. The Photo Award, the Goodyear Award and the three Sioux City Awards were presented to the respective winners. Elmer Juracek was presented with an award for serving as District Supervisor for ten years.

FUTURE OUTLOOK

We believe that the Great Plains Program is an excellent opportunity for cooperators to complete their conservation job with the assistance of cost-shares and technical help of a complete conservation plan. This program is being received enthusiastically by all who have contracts developed for their farms and ranches. Three members of the Board of Supervisors have Great Plains contracts and as a board we feel that we need to take the lead in encouraging this program in every way possible.

The 48 Great Plains contracts in effect cover 59,391 acres. Cost share of all contracts amounts to \$184,361.55. This is an average of \$3.10 per acre of Federal cost shares to apply a complete conservation plan.

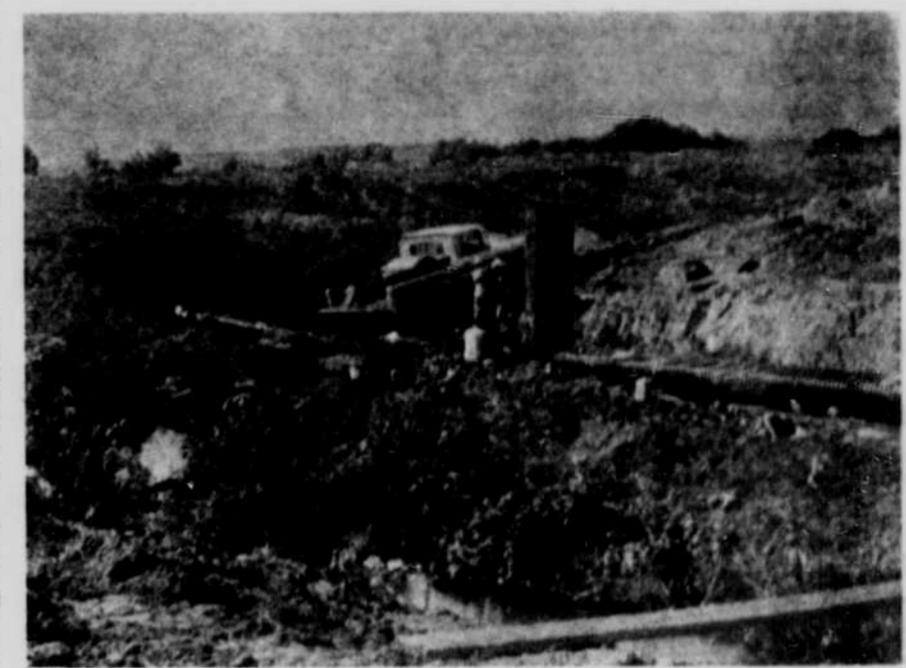
Our smallest plan comprises 24 acres and the largest is 7,400 acres. The smallest contract is \$445.56 and the largest is \$17,393.73. These contracts run from three to seven years to completion.

The demand for new contracts is stronger than ever before. The board feels that only by having an active part in the local self-governing organization (The Soil & Water Conservation District) and a large voice through the State and National Associations, that proper emphasis will continue to be placed on agriculture.

Few realize how dependent we all are on agriculture or the need to conserve our soil and water. Few realize that our soil is our manufacturing plant for food. We have a moral obligation to develop this soil to its highest capability and to preserve it for future generations.



One of the dams built this year on Henry Walters place. Gene Schneider, part time conservation aid looking over installation of new type of tube. Small tube inlet takes water from lower part of pond. Water will be maintained at level of board where this tube empties into larger overflow. This design is especially recommended for ponds to be stocked with fish.



Installation of primary spillway (tube) and drain pipe on Robert Witherwax irrigation. Six irrigation dams have been constructed in the county under Great Plains Contracts.

3RD ANNUAL PRE-LENTEN FISH SALE!

THURSDAY and FRIDAY (Feb. 21 & 22) ONLY

A TRUCKLOAD OF FROZEN FISH AND SEA FOOD WILL BE SOLD FROM OUR LOT AT DISCOUNT PRICES



For the Lenten Season

FILLET OF PERCH 5-Lb. box \$2¹⁹

NORTHERN FILLETS Single Frozen Per Lb. 59¢

OCEAN CATFISH STEAKS Lb. 55¢ 10-lb. \$4⁵⁰

DR. HERRING Lake Superior Per Pound 29¢

DR. MINN. BULLHEADS 5-Lbs. for \$2¹⁹

FANCY LARGE BREADED SHRIMP 2 Lb. Box \$1⁹⁸

U. S. Grade 'A' Pre-Cooked FISH STICKS 4-lb. box \$1⁹⁵

4-lb. box SILVERY SMELTS ... 95¢

H & G NORTHERN PIKE ... 29¢

Dressed CHANNEL CATFISH ... 69¢

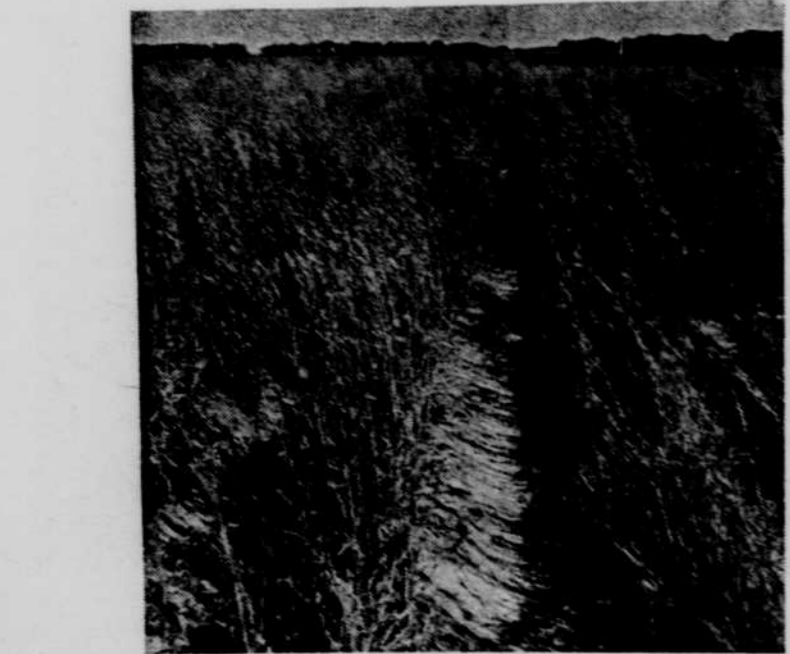
Breaded Ready-To-Fry FISH PORTIONS ... 10-lb. box \$3.69

FANCY Shrimp in the Shell 2 1/2-lb. box \$3¹⁹

Vita Brand Boneless in wine sauce HERRING 2 1/2-lb. jar \$2²⁹

ALSO: Salmon — Halibut — Walleyes Oysters — Lobster Tails — Scallops Froglegs — Many other Delicious Items

THE NEW OUTLAW



Saad bluestem in rows for seed production grown by Stanley Lambert of Ewing. Saad bluestem is one of the highest priced native grasses and demand for the seed is expected to remain high.